

Atty Dkt. No.: TEIK-001CON

REMARKS

In view of the following remarks, the Examiner is requested to withdraw the rejections and allow Claims 13-18, the only claims pending and under examination in this application.

The Examiner is thanked for the acknowledgement that Claim 15 contains allowable subject matter.

The specification has been amended to update the claim to priority, as requested by the Examiner.

Claims 13, 14 and 16-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Caplan in view of Gueret and Fischer. However, Caplan has an effective date of, at best, April 6, 2000. In contrast, the present application claims priority to March 23, 2000. **As such, Caplan does not qualify as prior art to the present application.** Therefore, this rejection is not proper and may be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, this application is considered to be in good and proper form for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0815, order number TEIK-001CON

Respectfully submitted,
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